

## **Fall Color Report – November 12, 2021**



### **Northern Illinois**

The Illinois State Forester reports this weekend may be the last best chances to enjoy the peak of fall color. After a slow start due to extended warm and dry weather into the early autumn, colors peaked and are waning in much of northern Illinois. However, a weekend drive or hike through woodlands and tree-lined urban parks or city streets will still offer a good show.





## Central Illinois



In some counties in central Illinois, leaf watchers report the best of fall color is at or just past peak this week. In west central Illinois, some trees are retaining leaves while others saw leaf drop accelerating with the high winds and occasional rain that followed last week's cold overnights. In east central Illinois, the orange and yellow of sugar maples and hickories have been waning. Most white oaks have turned with some purple or scarlet. Black oaks and red oaks have some red and burnt orange.

Sugar maples are showing the best colors of the season this week in some locations, with some seemingly glowing. Oak species are now showing their fall colors with oak/hickory landscapes displaying a myriad of yellow and rustic red/brown. Hickory, walnut, silver maple, cottonwood, pawpaw, Osage orange, mulberry, catalpa, hackberry, and buckeye



trees continue to show yellow but are browning and losing leaves quickly. Sycamores are still showing orange and brown in most areas.



This middle weekend of November should offer a good view for fall color drives on township and country roads, though this week's rain and wind defoliated a number of trees in some locations.

## **Southern Illinois**



In some areas of southern Illinois, the peak fall color has finally appeared, but leaf watchers fear it may not last long as some species are losing leaves quickly.

Sassafras and sweetgums are still mainly yellow/red, and sumacs are bright red. Cypress are almost completely bronze, contrasting with the yellow of hickory leaves.

The bottomlands are still holding some yellows and golds, with yellow in the elm, pawpaw, maple, sycamore, basswood, hickory, oak, and tulip poplar trees. Red/purple colors are showing in some southern Illinois sassafras, blackgum, sweetgum, dogwood, and oaks.

The rolling Shawnee Hills are at or slightly past peak. Driving through more densely forested areas offers some great views. The canopy is a calming mix of yellow-orange and red-brown, though the leaf fall has started to pick up on windy days.